

# Scott E. Reske

Indiana State Representative, District 37

## New bill encourages job growth for Indiana



Dear Friends,

You have heard some discouraging news about losing Indiana jobs in the last few months. In my last newsletter I reported that Indiana has lost more manufacturing, retail and service jobs than anywhere else in the United States. Some reports even put that figure at 100,000 jobs lost since the recession began.

It is true that the recession that hit the nation has had a very serious impact on our state. But with the passage of House Bill 1001 in June, I believe that we have made some excellent progress toward strengthening Indiana's economy and improving the job market for the future.

Experts agree that the best way to bolster job prospects is to bring companies to Indiana and to encourage local businesses to stay. It is crucial that we provide a tax structure conducive to business in order to compete with other states across the country. HB 1001 includes many provisions to that end. It eliminates the Corporate Gross Income Tax and the Supplemental Net Income Tax. It also eliminates the Inventory Tax by 2007, giving counties the option to eliminate the Inventory Tax before then if they pass a local Economic Development Income Tax to provide additional homestead credits.

The bill encourages high-tech job growth by appropriating \$30 million for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Research and Technology Fund for FY 2003 and FY 2004. It also establishes new certified technology parks to attract high technology businesses.

Please feel free to contact me regarding this or any other issue that involves state government.

Sincerely,

### Cities and Towns in Madison County

Population in 2000    % of County

Alexandria	6,260	4.7%
Anderson	59,734	44.89%
Chesterfield	2,961	*2.2%
Edgewood	1,988	1.5%
Elwood	9,730	*7.3%
Frankton	1,905	1.4%
Ingalls	1,168	.9%
Lapel	1,855	1.4%
Markleville	383	.3%
Orestes	334	.3%
Pendleton	3,873	2.9%
Summitville	1,090	.8%

\*These towns cross county lines. The value shown is only the part located in Madison County.

Source: US Census Bureau

## A quick look at jobs in Indiana

- Employment in Indiana has shifted significantly between sectors. The service sector makes up 26% of total employment, followed by trade at 24% and manufacturing at 22%.

- Indiana has consistently maintained lower annual unemployment rates than the nation since 1990.

- Even after seeing a rise in unemployment, Indiana ended 2001 with a 5% unemployment rate, compared to the 5.8% U.S. rate.

- With an estimated 1999 Gross State Product of more than \$182.2 billion, Indiana's economy ranks as the 15<sup>th</sup> largest in the country in terms of the value of goods and services produced.

- In 2000, Indiana's per capita personal income reached \$27,000, a 3% increase over 1999.

- Indiana has the 13<sup>th</sup> lowest poverty rate in the nation, with only 8% of the state living below the poverty level in 2000. This represents a significant change from 1990 when Indiana's poverty rate was 13%.

Source: Indiana Dept. of Commerce

# Education Update *from Representative Scott E. Reske*

## How are we doing?

Securing the future of Indiana through our children's education is a top priority for many Hoosiers. I hope you'll take a moment to look at some of the highlights from a recent report from the Indiana Department of Education.

- During the 2000-01 school year, Indiana maintained a 1:21 teacher/student ratio average in Grades 1-6.
- Indiana's daily attendance rate reached an all-time high at 95.8% in 2000-01.
- In the Third International Mathematics and Science Study taken by eighth graders in 1999, 69% of Indiana students scored above the international median in math and 72% scored above the international median in science.
- Of the 13 states that participated in the study, Indiana ranked third in both math and science.
- The National Assessment of Educational Progress reported that Indiana fourth grade students ranked second in the nation and our eighth grade students ranked fourth highest in the national mathematics examination.
- In the NAEP science exam Indiana fourth grade students and eighth grade students each scored seven points above the national average.
- The graduation rate for 2000-01 was 90%, a .5 % increase from 1999-00. A total of 56,153 diplomas were earned.
- During the 2000-01 academic year, 14,341 students received an Academic Honors Diploma. This was a 209% increase over the Honors Diplomas awarded in 1990-91.
- Indiana's average SAT scores have risen 30 points since 1991. The average Hoosier score in 2001 was 1000, comparable to the national average of 1020.
- For the 11<sup>th</sup> year in a row, Indiana seniors' ACT scores topped the national average on ACT testing.

## Laws impacting education from the 2002 Legislature

**Family College Savings Plan:** House Bill 1273, which deals only with private funds, changes the definition of the savings plan to make it more flexible and allow for the savings money to be used to fund out-of-state tuition costs.

**Veteran diplomas:** House Bill 1108 provides that honorably discharged World War veterans who attended high school in good standing but did not graduate because of joining the military may now receive their diploma.

**Vocational education:** House Bill 1099 requires the Board of Education to establish a list of secondary-level vocational education courses and provides a procedure for high schools to offer courses on this list.

**Exceptional learners:** Senate Bill 292 requires the Education Roundtable to include a representative of education programs for exceptional learners (children with disabilities and high ability students). The bill also states that the Department of Education must provide grants to school corporations to carry out plans for high ability students, and that a school corporation's strategic and continuous school improvement plan must address the needs of all students, including exceptional learners.

### CONTACT



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